THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) The Government have issued 102 Letters of Intent for import of 151 fishing vessels to prospective buyers from 1st January, 1985 to 30th November, 1986.

(b) Letters of Intent issued do not imply sanction of loan or guarantees by SDFC for the acquisition of the vassels permitted for import. Conversion of the Letters of Intent leading to import of fishing vessels involve fulfilling several conditions by the entrepreneurs. As such non-availalility of funds in rupees or foreign exchange or closure of SDFC are not the only reasons for the non-implementation of Letters of Intent.

(c) List attached. [*See Appendix* CXL, Annexure No. 116].

(d) and (e) The quantity of fish caught by the chartered foreign fishing vessels during the last two years are as follows:—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
1985	4540
1986 (till 6.11.86)	7370

Some of the important steps taken for augmenting the deep sea fishing fleet through a judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels are:—

(i) Clearance of import applications by an Inter-Ministerial Fishing Vessels Asquisition Committee.

(ii) Providing funds on soft terms for acquisition of indigenous and imported fishing vessels.

(iii) Providing 33 per cent subsidy on the cost of indigenously built deep sea fishing vessels.

For increase in marine and brackish water fish production the following are some of the programmes being implemented by the Government:—

(i) Development of brackish water areas in coastal states for prawn/fish farming and establishment of Prawn hatcheries.

(ii) Assistance to the States for deversifying fishing activities and motorization of indigenous craft through loans/subsidy and introduction of improved beach landing craft.

(iii) Assistance for construction of fishing harbours and of landing and berthing facilities at fishing centres.

(iv) Strengthening of Fishery Surveys.

Price-war between Public sector and Cooperative sector fertilizer units

*475. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a price-war is on between fertilizer manufacturers in violation of understanding between public sector and cooperative sector;

(b) whether it is fact that farmers prefer organic manure specially beyond certain limits and in arid zones than chemical fertilizers;

(c) whether Government propose to put a total ban on burning of organic manures for cooking etc; and

(d) whether it is a fact that organic manuring in several farms run by voluntary groups has proved to be highly successful and comparable to chemical fertilizers and in some cases of soils, even preferable?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Reports have been received to the effect that fertilizer manufacturers in the public, cooperative and private sectors have offered margins to dealerss in excess of the norms laid down by the Government in order to clear their stocks of fertilizers which have accumulated on account of reduced demand due to unfavourable weather conditions.

(b) and (d) The combined use of organic manures with chemical fertilizers has been found to be beneficial, both under research trials and in farmers' fields in various agroclimatic zones, including rainfed areas. However, the use of chemical fertilizers is necessary for high yielding variety crops which have high nutrient requirement and which cannot be met through the application of organic manures alone.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to ban burning of organic manures. The farmers are however, advised constantly to use large quantities of organic manures.

Extension of crop insurance scheme

*476. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend Crop Insurance Scheme to cent per cent areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details in regard thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to make the Scheme compulsory for all the areas.

Central Assistance to Maharashtra under Article 275(1) of the constitution

*477. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grant-in-aid under the first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution released by the Ministry of Welfare forms the part of the total Central Assistance sanctioned for the State Plan approved outlay;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra have asked this clarification right from and June 1983 without any response from Government; and

(c) what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No. Sir. The matter was clarified in the meeting of the State Coordination Committee for Tribal Development Department held on 23rd June, 1986 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government of Maharashtra at Bombay.

Setting up of disaster management body

*478 SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Disaster Management Body with adequate funds to manage floods, famines and other national disasters from time to time; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and by when it is likely to start operation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) There was a proposal to set up a National Institute for Disaster Management in the 7th Five Year Plan. The main functions of the Institute were to be (i) training of Central and State Government officials and agencies engaged in disaster management; (ii) advisory services to States and other countries on disaster management; and (iii) acting as clearing house for all information about disasters and preparation of contingency plans. The proposed Institute was not intended to have any funds under its control or other functions for managing natural calamities. The proposal for establishment of this Institute has been deferred for the present due to constraint of resources.

(b) Does not arise.